

Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131, attesting to completing the present invention, per such claims, before the filing date of the Hertel patent of 5-4-98.

At this point, it is noted that the present application has a filing date of 5-22-00, well before the issue date of the Hertel patent of 9-12-00.

The above averments are believed to meet the tests of 37 CFR 1.131 so as to swear applicants' claims behind the Hertel patent and to remove it as an effective reference. Accordingly, the above 103 (a) rejection of applicants' above claims, in view of the patents to Hill and Hertel, is believed met.

In short, applicants' claims 1 to 16 have no peer in the eligible prior art in reciting the combination of a) a pressure sensor... or b) a lock-in amplifier... for enhanced plume detection through clouds.

In view of the foregoing, the claims of record, are believed distinguished over the applied references and in condition for allowance.

In accordance with Section 714.01 of the M.P.E.P., the following information is present in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner: to Thomas C. Stover, (781) 377-3779.

Respectfully Submitted,



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